



# WRITERSTALK

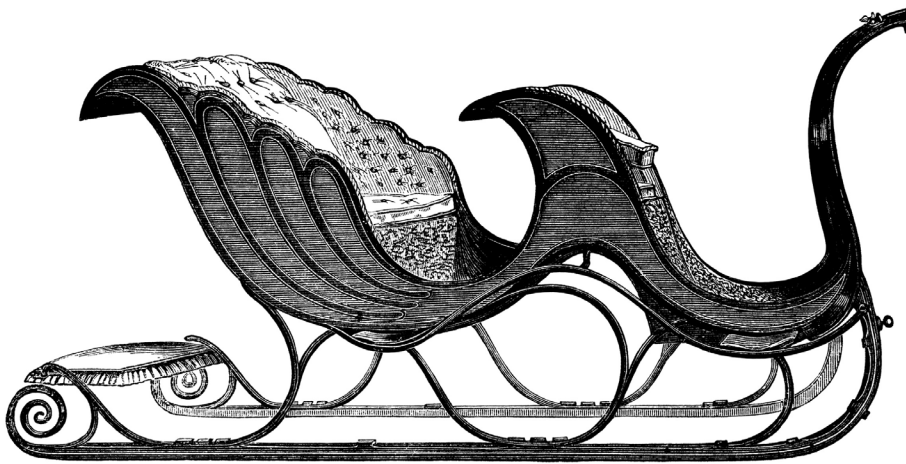
Volume 26  
Number 12  
December 2018

Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY

## Holiday Bash 2018

by the South Bay Writers



### Join us for the annual **HOLIDAY PARTY**

Sunday, December 9 from 3:00-6:00 PM

*graciously hosted by*  
**KEN & UNA DALY**  
in Saratoga, CA

Please RSVP to [pres@southbaywriters.com](mailto:pres@southbaywriters.com) for  
party location address.

### POTLUCK

Bring a dish according to your last name:

A - G: Main Dish

H - N: Dessert or Appetizer

O - Z: Salad or Side Dish

Beverages provided by the club.

Gift Exchange: Bring a wrapped gift valued at about  
\$15-\$20 to participate.

NOVEMBER RECAP: JOHN W. EVANS

## Writing a Memoir

*Review by J.K. McDole and E. Matthews*

"There can be no memoir without confession." A quote attributed to Saint Augustine set the tone for author John W. Evans' presentation at the November meeting of the South Bay Writers Club. Evans, a former Wallace Stegner Fellow and current Jones Lecturer at Stanford, brought his knowledge and understanding of writing memoir to a rapt crowd eager to learn the finer nuances of a challenging genre.

He began with instruction on creating memory maps: an exercise to nail down specific moments in time and structure them into a foundation for a striking memoir. Audience members were invited to participate in the exercise using a provided handout.

Evans had numerous tips and points of value for writing memoir. He advised the audience on where to begin when working on a memoir, especially in cases when the memoir focused on a time and place other than the writer's beginning or youth. He cautioned that even though memoirs need not include the writer's entire life, they did need to reveal a secret--a sentiment echoed in the quote by Saint Augustine.

"Strive for subjective truth as you remember it," Evans insisted, going on to recommend the memoirs of authors Joan Didion (*A Year of Magical Thinking*), Tobias Wolff (*Pharaoh's Army*), and Robert Graves (*Goodbye To All That*). After answering questions from the audience, he concluded the presentation with the poem "Prodigy".

Evans is the author of three books: *Should I Still Wish: A Memoir* (2017), *Young Widower: A Memoir* (2014), and *The Consolations: Poems* (2014). Check inside this issue on Page 10 for a look at Evans' memory map exercise. — WT

# Between the Lines

**Edie Matthews**  
President, South Bay Writers



## Toyland

During the Christmas season when I was a child, the toy department transformed into a dreamland. The extravagant displays were in department stores. In its heyday (before shopping centers), downtown Los Angeles hosted six mammoth stores: Russell's, Robinson's, May Company, Barker Brothers, Bullocks, and the Broadway. Wide-eyed with fascination and amazement, I'd wander through the variety and abundance of novelties for children.

First, carols enticed pedestrians to whimsical windows—usually on the corner. I'd squeeze through the onlookers who overflowed the sidewalk for an unobstructed view of the spectacle.

The traditional display featured a tree glittering with tinsel, stockings hung over the fireplace, and a jolly Santa bringing toys and gaily wrapped gifts galore. Twinkling lights and green garland festooned above, and a tooting train circled the perimeter below.

Each store presented a holiday scene. Like an animatronic Christmas cards, there were visions of winter fairies, snowflakes, and twirling snowmen; busy elves hammering toys in Santa's workshop; three Kings bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh; and a star shimmering over a nativity.

Up the escalator to the toy department, a line of children waited to sit on Santa's lap. They'd nod they'd been nice—not naughty—share their wish list, pose for a photograph, and afterwards be awarded a candy cane.

Barker Brothers welcomed customers with not one but two enormous trees. Ponderosa pines, trucked down from Lake Arrowhead, towered above the mezzanine. Shoppers entered the foyer agog at the branches draped in lights and decorated with bulbs the size of beach balls.

Our toy selection at home was limited. My three brothers and I played the typical board games—Parcheesi, Chutes and Ladders, and our favorite, Monopoly.

Over the years, we accumulated oodles of blocks, Lincoln Logs, Tinker Toys, miniature plastic cowboys, horses, and a battalion of green army men. We made up our own games. One favorite was to build a fort using all the bits and pieces, then attack our opponents by flinging blocks at it. More adventuresome than building a log cabin.

Roller skates were my favorite. They clamped onto your shoes, while the key dangled on a string around your neck. We lived in a hilly section of Los Angeles and skated the area like daredevils. We zipped down a hill and when the sidewalk ended, we sailed out onto the street, the bumpy asphalt slowing our descent.

After our skates fell apart, we dissected them, and nailed them to wooden crates. These make-shift go-carts were a bit safer roaring down the hillside

It was the days of baby-boomers and in addition to the four kids in my family, a slew of others lived in the neighborhood. No one had much money, but we had imagination and comradery. It wasn't unusual for a dozen kids to play an epic game of kickball or hide and go seek.

*Continued on Page 4*

California Writers Club  
South Bay Branch  
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### SBW Mission

Educating writers of all levels of expertise in the craft of writing and in the marketing of their work.

### Join Us

We have a membership category that fits you. Renewal dues are \$45 for membership through June 30, 2019. Dual membership, \$25; student membership, \$20. New member, \$65. Contact Membership Chair at a meeting or sign up online at [southbaywriters.com](http://southbaywriters.com) or send a check to CWC-South Bay Writers, P O Box 3254, Santa Clara, CA 95055.

## WritersTalk

The monthly newsletter of South Bay Writers, the South Bay Branch of the California Writers Club

email: newsletter@southbaywriters.com

### Managing Editor

J. K. McDole

### Contributing Editors

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Carolyn Donnell

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Sally Milnor

Jana McBurney-Lin

### Deadline

Submissions are due by the 15th of the month.

### Submissions

SBW encourages writers at all levels of expertise to submit their creative works for publication in *WritersTalk*. All submissions should be sent to the above email address in the form of text or an attached MS Word file (sorry, no hard copy submissions can be accepted). Please prepare your work as carefully as you would for an agent. Use Times New Roman 12-font; no tabs; no colors; no page breaks. Send graphics separately as jpg files, with separate instructions for placement in the submission if placement is important.

All submissions will be copyedited. Titles and headlines subject to change. Managing Editor reserves the right to selection.

### Suggested word limits (less is more):

**Member Achievement / News** (200 words)

**News Items** (400 words)

**In My Opinion** (300 words)

**Letters to the Editor** (300 words)

### Creative Works

Short Fiction/Memoir (1200-1800 words)

Poetry (200 words)

Essay/Nonfiction (1000 words)

### Reprints

Authors retain all rights to their works. *WritersTalk* gratefully acknowledges the authors' permission to publish their works here. Contact individual authors for permission to reprint.

### Announcements

An announcement is information of interest and value to writers that does not provide direct economic benefit to its originator and is published free of charge.

### Advertisements

Advertising of workshops, conferences, and events is accepted from other branches of California Writers Club. We cannot accept political advertising of any kind. *WritersTalk* does not accept unpaid advertising of events or services that benefit an individual. Advertise in CWC Bulletin or in the Literary Review. See Page 14.

**Change of Address:** Send changes of address to membership@southbaywriters.com

**Circulation:** 200

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J. K. McDole



## As They Fly By

It's the end of November. Cold weather has set in; outside, it's drizzling. We've reached the tail end of 2018. I just got back from traveling and there's a boatload of chores and tasks I have to finish before holiday seasonal hubbub fills up next month's to-do list. I'm facing a lot of deadlines. As I mulled over the newsletter draft for this month, I kept circling around a singular sentiment of mild, nagging guilt: "dang, McDole, you should have had this done days ago. You're cutting it close."

To writers, deadlines are a critical necessity of the job. Every month, we browse timeline after timeline for entering contests, sending out queries, filing pitches, and responding to submission calls. We set goals for ourselves: have a first draft done by this date, have an edit ready by that date. Once you get your piece all wrapped up and ready to send around to publishers, you glance at your calendar and notice you penciled in an expected date for the *next* first draft. Can't slow down! The pressure builds as the deadline looms.

According to the American Battlefield Trust, the word itself originated from a type of yard boundary used in Confederate prisons to keep prisoners from attempting to flee the stockade. Any prisoner seen crossing the 'deadline' would be shot by the guards. That's a relatable feeling. Sometimes my nerves get the better of me and I start to imagine deadlines like metaphors of their etymology: a ghastly, word-shaped guillotine ready to chop off my head. I should point out that I'm also the executioner, holding the rope; its fibers are woven from my own procrastination.

But then I remember a quote from Douglas Adams of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* fame: "I love deadlines. I like the whooshing sound they make as they fly by." That's a far kinder mental image. Now I'm picturing aerial sights that are wholesome and unassuming, like a D-shaped flock of Canada geese. Or maybe an airliner sailing overhead, colored in a pleasing livery, its effervescent contrails spelling out something harmless, pure whimsy: *time's a-wasting!*

It makes me feel better to envision a deadline this way. It takes the edge off my nerves and reminds me to look up, clear my mind, and focus on the task at hand. My therapist calls this a coping mechanism: a good way to manage mental stress, especially when the stress is associated with things like work or productivity. And since productivity is essential to writing (and procrastination a challenge that many writers must beat), I decided to jot down a few more coping techniques I use

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# View from the Board

by Marjorie Johnson



Marjorie Johnson  
SBW Secretary

On November 6, seven of us met at President Edie Matthews' home: Edie, Alfred Jan, Bill Baldwin, Sally Milnor, Trenton Myers, Dave LaRoche, and Marjorie Johnson.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm. **Minutes for October 2018** were approved. Meeting highlights follow.

Announcements from President Edie Matthews:

- **December holiday party Sunday, December 9, 3 to 6 pm**, Una Daly will host. Location to be given at Nov. 12 dinner meeting or by sending email to [pres@southbaywriters.com](mailto:pres@southbaywriters.com)
- **NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE FOR JANUARY:** Harry's will be closed in January while acquiring a new roof. David Corbett's workshop will be held at Home Town Buffet, 2670 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, Sunday, January 27, 8:30 – 2:30. Come for breakfast and lunch. SBW will return to Harry's in February.
- **January board meeting:** It comes early, Saturday, December 29 at 10 a.m., but Edie will bribe us by serving brunch at her home.
- **Upcoming programs:** February, on creativity for writers; March, Michael Grumley on self-publishing and promoting your book.

Other motions of interest:

- Trenton Myers moved, Dave LaRoche seconded, **a motion to put \$10,000 into a 24-month CD at Discover**. Motion carried, unanimous.
- Trent Myers moved, Sally Milnor seconded, **a motion for SBW to purchase one copy of the guest speaker's book** to be given as a door prize that night. Motion carried, unanimous.

Postponed until next meeting: member ID badges, tote bags, SBW banner, writing contest open to all members of CWC.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. Next meeting: 10 am, December 29, Edie's house for brunch.

SBW Board meetings are open to all interested members of South Bay Writers, RSVP to Edie. Come and learn what's happening and how to be a part of the action. — WT

## Toyland

Continued from Page 2

Accompanying my mother to the May Company, I recall catching sight of a Shirley Temple doll. I don't believe I'd even seen a Shirley Temple film at the time, but the talented dynamo cast a long shadow, and somehow, I knew of her — maybe from the Warner Brothers cartoons that aired in the afternoon.

Under a halo of honey-blond curls, in a pink-taffeta dress, she stood with open arms. I mustered the courage to check the price, \$17. A fortune. I knew we couldn't afford such an extravagance and didn't trouble my mother asking for it. Still, hoping she'd be mesmerized too, I pointed to the doll. "Look Mom, it's Shirley Temple." She acknowledged it with a cursory glance and continued shopping. I lingered, staring. I knew it was useless to pine for the treasure. It was out of my realm.

The most impressive store was the Broadway on Hill Street. They devoted their entire basement to Christmas and children. One year, in addition to the array of toys, they brought in several amusement park rides including a rollercoaster. Wowed, I imagined the ingenuity required to assemble such a feat inside the store.

Sadly, I never had the coins to enjoy a ride on the rollercoaster or the funds to buy a Shirley Temple doll, but I'll always remember my childhood visions of Toyland at Christmas. — WT

## Member News

by Marjorie Johnson

**Valerie Estelle Frankel's** academic book *Star Wars Meets the Eras of Feminism: Weighing All the Galaxy's Women Great and Small* is just out from Rowman and Littlefield. Review copies available. Also if you want to write an essay on Fourth Wave Feminism in TV or Film for her upcoming anthologies, just let her know at [valerie@calithwain.com](mailto:valerie@calithwain.com)!

**Kelly Miller** recently signed a contract with Meryton Press to publish her book, *Death Takes a Holiday at Pemberley*, sometime in 2019. The story is a romantic fantasy set in Regency, England:

*"Fitzwilliam Darcy, a man of fortune, property, and good social standing, is blissfully married to his wife, Elizabeth. After Darcy miraculously escapes a near fatal riding accident, he is visited by an Angel of Death, Graham, who insists Darcy act as his guide for his sojourn in the world of mortals. Grudgingly accepting the situation, Darcy questions Graham's true motives. How can Darcy protect his family from an angel with superhuman powers? In this romantic fantasy, fans of Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice get a glimpse of their favorite couple as they deal with both human and unearthly challenges."*

To have your news appear in this column, email me at [membernews@southbaywriters.com](mailto:membernews@southbaywriters.com) — WT



# 2018 WritersTalk Challenge Awards

by Marjorie Johnson, 2018 Contest Administrator

Each year, South Bay Writers awards cash prizes--\$100 for first place, \$50 for second-- to the writers of the best articles, stories, and poems published in *WritersTalk*. This year's Challenge covers the 13-month period October 2017 through October 2018. The contest is ongoing. Creative work appearing in November and December 2018 WT will be included in the 2019 contest.

Thank you to all of my judges, who must remain anonymous. Judges were chosen from the staff of *WritersTalk*, from SBW officers listed on page 2, and from previous winners of the Challenge. No one judged a division in which he/she had an entry. Names were removed from all manuscripts before judging.

In each case, the judges chose the first place winner unanimously.

Winners of the 2018 WT Challenge Contest are listed below.

## Poetry

- First, Kathy Boyd, "Water"
- Second, Penelope Cole, "The Yellow House of My Childhood"

## Nonfiction/Essay

- First, Chris Weilert, "The Sound of Bad Music"
- Second, Luanne Oleas, "The Old Wooden Bench"

## Memoir

- First, Lucinda Woerner, "A Very Long Reach"
- Second, Judith Shernock, "Me Too"

## Fiction

- First, J.K. McDole, "Comorbidity"
- Second (tie), Carolyn Donnell, "The Black One"
- Second (tie), Dr. Jac Fitzenz, "A Very Cold Night"

It has been a pleasure to read your creative work. Keep submitting – see page 3 for submission specs – YOU could be a winner in November 2019. – WT



From left to right: Marjorie Johnson, Lucinda Woerner, Kathy Boyd, Carolyn Donnell, J. K. McDole, Luanne Oleas, Penelope Cole (back), and Judith Shernock

# **PLOTTING YOUR CRIME:**

## **Workshop with David Corbett**

**Sunday, January 27th, 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM**



**Mystery! Thriller! Caper! Noir! Crime Drama!**

**Each sub-genre has its specific requirements and reader expectations. In this one-day workshop award-winning author David Corbett, will guide students through the various demands of each category and layout their unique plotting requirements.**

**Early Bird Registration** (up to November 12): CWC Member \$49, Nonmember \$59

**Regular Registration Rate:** CWC Member, \$59; Nonmember, \$67

Student (18 – 25 with ID): \$29

**At The Door Rate:** Member \$65, Nonmember \$69

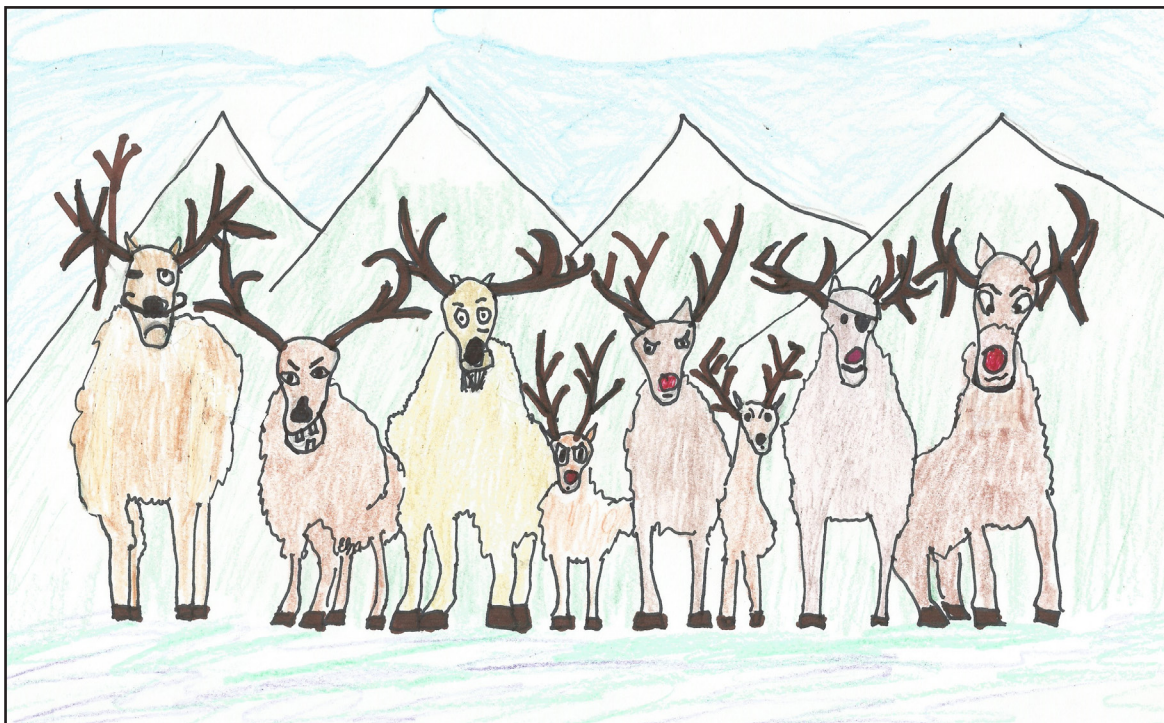
**Includes continental breakfast & lunch (\$10 credit)**

**Location: Hometown Buffet, 2670 El Camino Real, Santa Clara CA**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member ☐ Non Member ☐  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Cell \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Register online at [WWW.SOUTHBAYWRITERS.COM](http://WWW.SOUTHBAYWRITERS.COM) or send check to  
CWC South Bay Writers  
PO Box 3254  
Santa Clara, CA 95055**





*Reindeer Rejects: Queasy, Lumpy, Fumbles, Cackles, Cooties, Gassy, Knuckles*

ESSAY

## CWC Leadership Conference

by Kymberlie Ingalls

Oh, what a time we had!

When we hear the words “leadership conference,” it’s easy to think that it would be quite dry and boring. What we had, however, was a rousing day of inspiration, collaboration and comradeship. I don’t think anyone walked away feeling alone, and that was our goal of the NorCal group for this October event.

It was a unique experience for me to be part of such an on-point planning committee. I was able to contribute a great deal, and was encouraged by the others when they put forth their confidence into our team. I tend to find that all of the stress it takes to plan an event often pays off in the end. The majority of our Northern California branches sent their members to us, and we had frank, honest discussions about the things that make our club work from the inside out. Members and volunteers gave up their entire day to come together and work to build our foundation even stronger for future generations. We had small group discussions and large, assembled idea gathering. We met strangers and said hello to friends.

There was an exchange of thoughts and inspiration to try new things, opportunity to boast and to share our woes too.

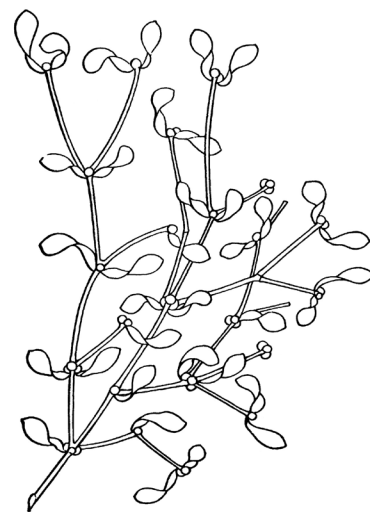
I have to admit, it’s easy for me to become discouraged in our efforts as I’ve wandered through various positions in various branches. From the ‘top’ (president) to the ‘bottom,’ (new member or visitor), I’ve seen some things. It’s easy to feel sometimes that we’re in it alone and what this conference does is gives us proof of the opposite. It shows us that we have common successes and problems and reminds us that we aren’t only branches of a large club, but that each branch isn’t too far away when we need them.

Our largest branch, the Redwood Writers, has the motto “Writers helping writers.” I think this best embodies our statewide mission in three small but very important words. Despite our personalities, politics and backgrounds we come together with this common goal.

Please consider taking on an active role within your branch. It will enhance your experience with us, provide progress and evo-

lution, and will be a step in continuing our long legacy for the writers who come after.

But don’t tell my editor how much I depend on my online friend. She thinks she’s my word guru. — WT





ESSAY

# Mistakes First-Timers Make

by Marjorie Johnson

When I read “Manuscripts mistakes only first-timers make and how to fix them” by Toni Fitzgerald in *The Writer*, July 2018, I thought about new members of South Bay Writers. Many of us take the self-published route for our first works of fiction. Of course, we correct typos and obvious grammar errors before submittal. So, just how do editors know that we are amateurs?

The title of this piece is an example of an overlooked typo. Beyond typos, Fitzgerald lists nine of the most common mistakes she sees in first-timers work.

1. Overwriting. More is not better when it comes to words. One adjective is enough. You can eliminate most adverbs by choosing a strong verb. Also, editors can identify green writers by the number of synonyms they use for “say.” Cast out “she chortled,” “she exclaimed,” and “she declared” and stick to “she said.”

2. Inconsistency. Is your main character Sara or Sarah? For inexperienced authors, inconsistency applies not just to spelling or grammar but also to story. Do plot points arise out of nowhere? Does a character do a 180 without explanation?

3. Dependency upon an editor. Lay out a creative vision for your work that makes sense. Editors can polish prose and weed out errors, but they cannot write the book for you.

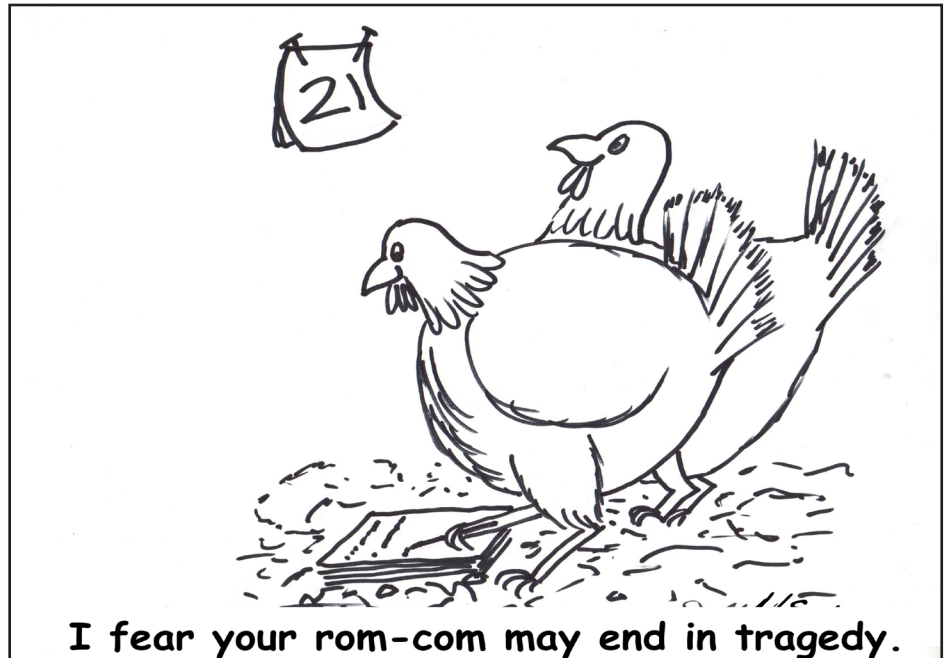
4. Writing just one draft.

5. Putting all your faith in spellcheck.

6. Jumping from writing straight to publishing. When you’ve been so close to a manuscript for so long, spotting its flaws becomes difficult. For a book, take at least a two-month break. When you look back with fresh eyes, you’ll see all the places that could use finessing.

7. Taking too long to get to the point. Jump into the action and move the back-story further into the narrative. You will grab the reader’s attention faster.

8. Too much passive voice. Many first-time writers, especially those self-publishing, over-rely upon passive voice. Activate those verbs, and you will also slash hundreds of words from your



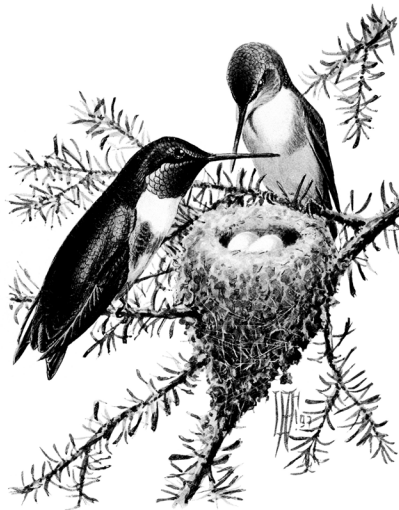
manuscript. One clue: count how many times “was” appears in your manuscript.

9. Leaning on a language crutch. All writers have a crutch—a word, phrase, or pattern we repeat over and over in everything we write, often without noticing it. One writer used “elucidate” in each chapter of his book. One “elucidate” is grand. Twelve is not.

Can you conquer these manuscript mistakes on your own? Many of us do. However, a good editor can help you make a better final product. You don’t know an editor? I suggest you run your work past a critique group or at least have other writers read it and comment. — WT



HOLLY.



RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD.  
Length, 3.75 inches.

Smell of firestorm gray smoke  
filling my skies.  
Over two hundred miles away to  
my northeast.  
Hummingbird hovers right in  
front of me.  
  
Word Painting  
by Stephen C. Wetlesen





# South Bay Writers November 2018







*John W. Evans speaking and signing books at the November meeting of South Bay Writers. Photos by Carolyn Donnell.*

## Creating the Memory Map for Your Essay

*Writing Exercise by John W. Evans (and Danielle Trussoni)*

### Presented at the South Bay Writers November 2018 Meeting

**Background:** One way to capture the slippery details necessary to write a striking memoir essay or chapter is to attempt to nail down specific moments in time. There are tricks or techniques that will help the writer do this. One device I used in writing both of my memoirs is something I call a “memory map.” Like a road map to the past, a memory map guides the mind to the essential emotional truth of a scene by isolating details the writer may have forgotten.

**The Exercise:** Perform the first four steps now, and return to complete Step 5 later (note: at the meeting, the first four steps were performed within a ten-minute window, and Step 5 was to be completed at home).

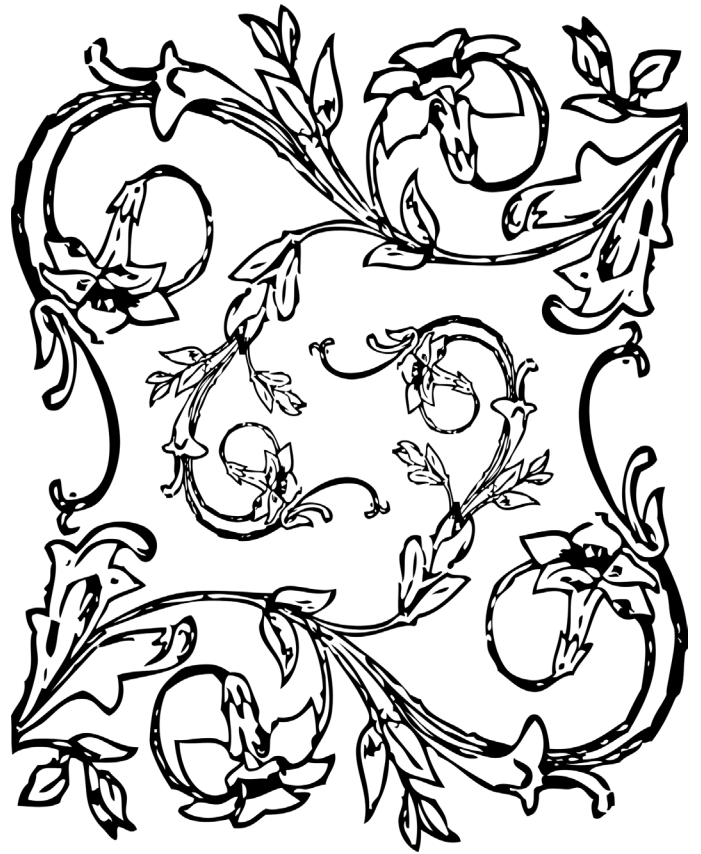
1. Choose a scene or an event from your life that you would like to write about.
2. Isolate, in your mind, the main physical space where the scene or event happened.
3. [On a piece of paper:] Draw a simple blueprint-style map of that space. Mark out any boundaries, rooms, surrounding areas, etc.. Label their contents. Note people who may or may not enter the scene. Be very specific.
4. In the margin of your drawing, list adjectives that capture the texture of the time and place.
5. Do an “emotional wash” over the map. Use music, photographs, movies of the period, diaries, taped conversations, researched internet material--anything that will give you the flavor of the real, lived experience of the event. Allow these sensory experiences to bring you back to the past. Write the new/clarified memories, however fragmented, down on the map.



## SBW JANUARY WORKSHOP CHANGE OF LOCATION

Please take note: the January workshop with mystery author David Corbett will NOT take place at our usual meeting place of Harry's Hofbrau. The workshop will be held at:

**HOMETOWN BUFFET**  
2670 El Camino Real  
Santa Clara, CA



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## 16th San Francisco Writers Conference

Pre & Post Event Master Classes (Thursday and Monday, February 14 & 18.)

**A Celebration of Craft, Commerce & Community**

**February 14-17, 2019—Presidents Day Weekend** at the **Hyatt Regency Embarcadero**



Keynoters will include:

**CATHERINE COULTER**

Queen of romantic thrillers and *New York Times* bestselling author of 80 books!

**JANE FRIEDMAN**

Former editor-in-chief of *Writers Digest* and author of *The Business of Being a Writer* and *Publishing 101*, Jane is an expert on how the digital age is transforming writing careers, publishing, and storytelling.



Meet and network with the presenters—authors, agents, editors, and publishers—and fellow writers. Enjoy four days of sessions, Ask-a-Pro event, three breakfasts, SFWC Gala party, and pitch sessions. 'Practice Your Pitch' with the Tri-Valley Writers. Consult with an editor or publicist/book coach. (One each per attendee.)



**Register now for early discount pricing! \$695 before September 1<sup>st</sup>.** (Full price will be \$895)  
Speed Dating with Agents is still only an additional \$75 and available to attendees only.

Details and online registration at: **[www.SFWriters.org](http://www.SFWriters.org)**

*Produced by the San Francisco Writers Conference--a 501(c)3 nonprofit.*

**Sponsors include:** Smashwords, IngramSpark, Lulu Press, IBPA, Book Expo, *Writers Digest*, Joyce Turley, Harvey Pawl, Women's National Book Association, Tri-Valley Writers/California Writers Club, BookShop West Portal.

**If you want to be a sponsor or scholarship benefactor, please write to Barbara Santos, [Barbara@SFWriters.org](mailto:Barbara@SFWriters.org).**

**Questions about either of these events?** Contact us at [info@SFWriters.org](mailto:info@SFWriters.org)

5/31/18

## Thesaurus Crush

by Betty Auchard

I have a crush on Thesaurus. He lives in my computer. When I knock on his door, he asks for the secret code, and I type a dull, passive verb in the top right corner of the screen. While waiting for his response, my anticipation begins to bloom. When he dumps a pile of colorful gems on the screen, the dead sentence I wrote comes to life, no matter which option I choose.

My one regret is that being so attached to Thesaurus feels like cheating. Why can't I come up with those wonderful ideas without his help? On my own, I suffer from a limited vocabulary.

A friend said that the English language is unique in having a lot of terms to express an idea or describe a thing. There are too many choices for giving my story the best meaning ... or rendering or variation or texture or shading.

Yes, that's it! I need more shading.

I can't create that effect on my own.

I need Thesaurus in my life, and I will never, ever break up with him.

But don't tell my editor how much I depend on my online friend. She thinks she's my word guru. — WT

### As They Fly By

*Continued from Page 3*

to combat the stress and pressure of trying to meet a deadline.

1. **Make it visual.** There's a big whiteboard hung on the wall by my writing desk in my office, and that's where I write my daily, weekly, and monthly to-do lists. I use two different note and calendar apps on my phone (thanks, Google) to keep track of necessary dates.

2. **Communicate.** Let your friends, family, and supporters know your deadlines so they can cheer you on! Every morning before we go off to our respective workplaces, my spouse and I will tell each other what kind of demands and deadlines we're looking at during the week.

3. **Distract in moderation.** When I really need to buckle down and finish something by a certain date, I shut off my internet router and turn off my phone. But extended focus can be exhausting, and sometimes the brain needs a break. Snack breaks and short walks help me the most.

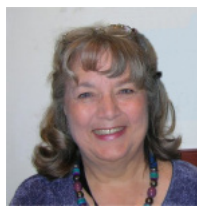
4. **Breathe!** Pause what you're doing right now and take in a deep breath. Oxygen fuels our brains and keeps our focus honed and sharp. If your deep breath becomes a yawn, it's your brain's way of asking for further stimulation.

As we approach the end of 2018, I want to hear your thoughts on deadlines, timeframes, timelines, guillotines, airlines, Canada geese... you name it! Get a head start on submitting your work to *WritersTalk* in 2019!

You've got until December 15th! — WT

## Contests and Markets

by Carolyn Donnell



Listings are for information only. No vetting has been done by South Bay Writers Club. Some contests have been around for a long time and the reputation is known but some are newer. Please read all guidelines carefully before submitting. And please share any experience you have with them,

good or bad!

For more websites that list contests and markets and tips for writers, as well as some Facebook pages and groups for writers, check out the August and September 2018 issues of *WritersTalk* at:

[www.southbaywriters.com](http://www.southbaywriters.com).

If you are in the Facebook Group for the South Bay Writers Club, you can find some listings in the Files section. The Files section can be found on the left-hand column of the page. If you aren't already a member, check us out on Facebook and ask to join!

### KDP Pen To Publish Contest – 2018 Edition:

Original and previously unpublished novel, short stories, or poems in English, Hindi, or Tamil. Publish on KDP between Nov. 10th, 2018 and Feb. 9th 2019 and win cash prizes. See more at (abbreviated URL):

<https://tinyurl.com/y8mylquf>

### Local Publications

- The Literary Nest: A local online publication. On their Facebook page they just said "So few women poets in this issue. Women, won't you help me by submitting your poetry to us?"

<https://theliterarynest.com/>

- Sand Hill Review: Stories, non-fiction articles, and poems.

<https://sandhillreview.org/>

### Other Publications

- Poets & Writers: Contest Blog  
[https://www.pw.org/blogs/prize\\_reporter](https://www.pw.org/blogs/prize_reporter)
- New Beginnings Short Story Competition: short stories in English from anywhere in the world in any genre. 20 awards. Previously published accepted. Deadline January 15th. 2500 word maximum. \$17 entry fee  
<https://www.shortstoryproject.com/new-beginnings/>
- The Citron Review: An online publication seeking poetry, flash fiction, micro fiction and creative non-fiction.  
<https://citronreview.com/>

*Continued on Page 11*

## Contests and Markets

*Continued from Page 10*

- Winning Writers: Lists poetry and prose contests that are free to enter with deadlines between November 15-December 31.

<https://winningwriters.com/the-best-free-literary-contests/free-winning-writers-newsletter>

- Also, see Winning Writers' list of contests to avoid at <https://winningwriters.com/the-best-free-literary-contests/contests-to-avoid>
- Rattle – Chapbook prize: Deadline: January 15, 2019. At least 1 winner (and up to 3) will receive: \$2,000, 500 copies, and distribution to Rattle's 7,000 subscribers. Previously published individual poems OK, but the manuscript as a whole must be unpublished.

<https://www.rattle.com/chapbooks/prize/>

Other resources include:

- Poets & Writers - [pw.org/grants](http://pw.org/grants)
- The Write Life - [thewritelife.com/writing-contests/](http://thewritelife.com/writing-contests/)
- The Writer Magazine  
<https://www.writermag.com/contests/>
- Freedom With Writing  
<https://www.freedomwithwriting.com/>
- Authors Publish - <http://www.authorspublish.com/>

If you are in the Facebook group – South Bay Writers Club – there are groups that regularly post submission links. One such example is Writers Post Call for Submissions. One example is Third Wednesday Magazine - A Quarterly Journal of Literary & Visual Arts at

<https://thirdwednesdaymagazine.org> – WT

## Conferences and Events December 2018

*by Margie Yee Webb*

Auburn Winter Storytelling Festival

January 26, 2019, Auburn CA

<http://www.auburnwinterstorytellingfestival.com/>

Presented by the Foothill Storytelling Guild -- includes Children's Interactive Storytime, Storytelling Workshop, Open Telling, Liars Contest, and Featured Tellers Showcase.

San Diego State University Writers' Conference

January 31 - February 2, 2019, San Diego CA

<https://ces.sdsu.edu/writing-language-communication/sdsu-writers-conference>

"For the joy of writing! Whether you're a beginning writer or a published professional, the San Diego State University Writers' Conference is for you."

San Francisco Writers Conference

February 14-17, 2019, San Francisco CA

<https://sfwriters.org/>

"Join us for the 16th San Francisco Writers Conference! A Celebration of Craft, Commerce and Community for Writers."

PLUS Optional Pre/Post Event Master Classes – WT





# News from the California Writers Club

## Ads in CWC Bulletin

by Bob Isbill (760) 221-6367

Want to increase your visibility? Sell your service? Promote your book? Increase speaker engagements? Pump up your web traffic? Or just send a greeting?

Each issue of *The CWC Bulletin*, published three times a year, reaches 2,000 published and aspiring writers in 21 CWC branches throughout the state and is published on [www.calwriters.org](http://www.calwriters.org).

Now we are accepting writing-related advertising from businesses, CWC members, and individuals who wish to reach our target market at reasonable prices. See [calwriters.org](http://calwriters.org) for details and how to format your ad. —WT

## You may advertise in the CWC Literary Review or The CWC Bulletin

Go to [www.calwriters.org](http://www.calwriters.org) for details

## CWC Around the Bay

Published meeting locations and times for other CWC branches in the greater San Francisco Bay Area. If you want to attend one of their meetings, first check their websites for details.

**Berkeley:** 3:00 third Sundays, 1204 Preservation Park Way, Oakland. [cwc-berkeley.org](http://cwc-berkeley.org)

**Central Coast:** 5:30 third Tuesdays, Point Pinos Grill, 77 Asilomar Boulevard, Pacific Grove. [centralcoastwriters.org](http://centralcoastwriters.org)

**Fremont Area:** 2:00 fourth Saturdays, 42 Silicon Valley, Fremont. [cwc-fremontareawriters.org](http://cwc-fremontareawriters.org)

**Marin:** 2:00 fourth Sundays, Book Passage in Corte Madera. [cwcmarin.com](http://cwcmarin.com)

**Mendocino Coast:** 6:00 third Thursdays, Mendocino Hotel. [writersmendocinocoast.org](http://writersmendocinocoast.org)

**Mount Diablo:** 11:00 third Saturdays, Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. [cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com](http://cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com)

**Napa Valley:** 7:00 second Wednesdays, Napa Valley Unitarian Church, Napa. [napavalley-writers.net](http://napavalley-writers.net)

**North State:** 6:00 third Mondays, Butte County Library-Chico Branch. [northstatewriters.com](http://northstatewriters.com)

**Redwood:** 2:00 second Sundays, Flamingo Conference Resort & Spa, 2777 Fourth Street, Santa Rosa. [redwoodwriters.org](http://redwoodwriters.org)

**Sacramento:** 11:00 third Saturdays, Cattlemen's Restaurant, 12409 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova. [cwcsacramentowriters.org](http://cwcsacramentowriters.org)

**San Francisco/Peninsula:** 10:00 third Saturdays, Sequoia Yacht Club, Redwood City: check website <http://cwc-peninsula.org/>

**San Joaquin Valley Writers,** 12:30 second Saturdays, University of Pacific community room

**Tri-Valley:** 1:30 third Saturdays, Four Points by Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard, Pleasanton. [trivalleywriters.org](http://trivalleywriters.org)

## Wanted: Information on Conferences

Send information on conferences and other events of interest to writers to [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com) for consideration for inclusion on this page.



FIG. 185. *HEDERA HELIX DENTATA*.

Vintage graphics for WritersTalk are sourced from *The Old Design Shop* blog, which is created and curated by Julie. Check out her stunning graphic design work at <https://olddesignshop.com/>.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>December 2018</b>						1
2	3 2P Valley Writers	4 7P Well-RED at Works	5	6	7 7:30P Open mic Barnes&Noble Almaden, San Jose	8
9 10A Our Voices 3-6P <b>HOLIDAY PARTY!</b>	10 2P Valley Writers	11	12	13	14	15 <b>DEADLINE:</b> <i>WritersTalk</i> Submission
16 1P Poets@Play, Markham House	17 2P Valley Writers	18	19	20 7P Third Thursday, Poetry Center	21 (This Open Mic is Cancelled)	22
23 10A Our Voices	24 2P Valley Writers	25	26	27	28	29 10:00A Board Meeting (Brunch)
30	31					

#### Future Events:

SBW Holiday Party: December 9th  
January Board Meeting: Dec. 29, Edie Matthews' Home  
Plotting Your Crime Workshop: January 27th, 2019

**SBW/CWC Events**  
**appear on this calendar page.**

## Ongoing Events

### Critique Groups

**Our Voices:** Meets at Bel Bacio Coffee in San Jose every other Sunday 10 AM. Genres: Fiction, memoir, nontechnical nonfiction. Contact: Dave LaRoche at [dalaroche@comcast.net](mailto:dalaroche@comcast.net)

**Valley Writers:** Meets at Valley Village Retirement Community, Winchester at Dolores, Santa Clara, Mondays 2 PM. Marjorie Johnson, [marjoriej358@comcast.net](mailto:marjoriej358@comcast.net)

**Your Critique Group:** Send info to [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com)

Do you belong to a critique group? Please send details to *WritersTalk*.

### SBW Board Meetings

Board meets on Tuesday, 7 PM, in the week preceding the dinner meeting. Contact Edie Matthews for more information on how you can attend at [pres@southbaywriters.com](mailto:pres@southbaywriters.com).

### Open Mics

**South Bay Writers Open Mic:** Read from your own work, from your favorite authors, or just come to listen. First Friday evenings, B&N Almaden. Third Friday evenings, Willow Glen Library or Rosegarden Library. See calendar for schedule. Contact Bill Baldwin (408) 730-9622 or email [WABaldwin@aol.com](mailto:WABaldwin@aol.com)

**CWC SF Peninsula Open Mic:** Third Wednesday of every month, 7:30 PM at Reach and Teach, 144 West 25th Ave., San Mateo

### Ongoing discussion groups

**Facebook Group:** Members of South Bay Writers can join our Facebook group—South Bay Writers Club.

**Add your discussion group here!**

**You may advertise in the CWC Literary Review or The CWC Bulletin**

Go to [www.calwriters.org](http://www.calwriters.org) for details

### Poetry Readings

**Poets@Play:** Meets at Markham House History Park, 1650 Senter Rd., San Jose, Second Sundays most months, 1 – 4 PM. [www.poetrycentersanjose.org](http://www.poetrycentersanjose.org)

**Poetry Center San Jose:** Meets Willow Glen Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave., San Jose, 7 PM Third Thursday, 408-808-3045 [www.poetrycentersanjose.org](http://www.poetrycentersanjose.org)

**Well-Red Poetry Reading Series:** Second Tuesdays, 7 – 9 pm, at Works San Jose, 365 South Market Street. Featured reader followed by an open mic, if time allows.

[www.poetrycentersanjose.org](http://www.poetrycentersanjose.org)

### SBW Recommends ...

If you know of a regularly occurring event for writers, send an email to [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com).



**California Writers Club**  
South Bay Branch  
P.O. Box 3254  
Santa Clara, CA 95055  
[www.southbaywriters.com](http://www.southbaywriters.com)

## MAIL TO

Address Correction Requested

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**South Bay Writers**  
**will not have a December meeting!**  
Please join us at the annual  
**HOLIDAY PARTY**  
Sunday, December 9, 2018  
3 to 6 PM - RSVP inside!

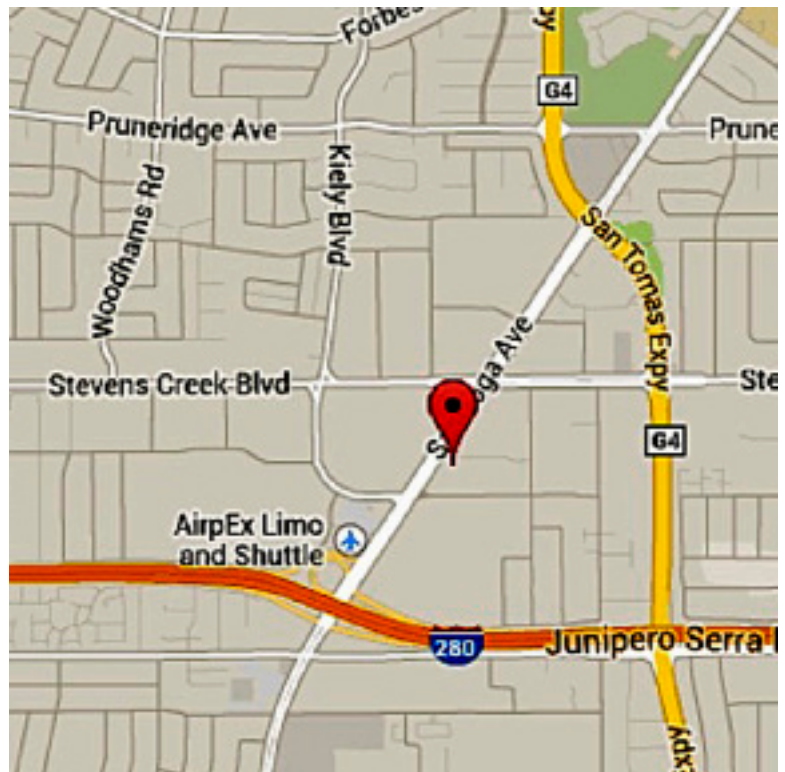
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## Plotting Your Crime with David Corbett January 2019 Workshop

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Please send contributions and submissions for *WritersTalk* by or on the 15th of the month!

Regular dinner meetings are  
second Mondays 6 – 9 PM of every month  
except July, December, and workshop  
months



### Harry's Hofbrau

From Highway 280, take Saratoga Avenue North.  
Harry's is on your right near Stevens Creek Blvd.